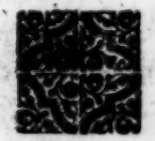
A DECLARATION BY THE KINGS MAJESTY, TO HIS SUBJECTS OF THE KINGDOMES Of {SCOTLAND, ENGLAND, and IRELAND.



EDINBVRGH,
Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, 1650.

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DECLARATION

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BY THE KING

HIS Majesty taking in consideration that merciful dispensation of divine providence, by wch he hath been recovered out of the snare of evil counsell, and having attained so full perswasion & confidence of the loialty of his people in *Scotland*, with whom hee hath

too long ſtood at a diſtance, & of the righteouſnes of their cauſe, as to joyn in one Covenant with them, and to caſt himſelf and his intereſts wholly upon God, and in all matters Civil to follow the advice of his Parliament, and ſuch as ſhall be intruſted by them, & in all matters Eccleſiaſtick the advice of the Generall Aſſembly & their Commiſsioners; And being ſenſible of his duty to God, & deſirous to approve himſelf to the conſciences of all his good ſubjects, and to ſtop the mouths of his and their enemies and traducers, doth in reference to his former deportments, and as to his reſolutions for the future, Declare as follows.

Though his Majeſty as a dutiful Son be obliged to honour the memory of his Royall Father, and have in eſtimation the perſon of his Mother, yet doth hee deſire to be deeply humbled and afflicted in ſpirit before God, becauſe of his Fathers hearkning to & following evil counſels, and his oppoſition to the work of Reformation and to the Solemn League & Covenant, by which ſo much of the blood of the Lords People hath been ſhed in theſe Kingdomes. And for the Idolatrie of his

Mother

Mother, the Toleration whereof in the Kings house, as it was matter of great stumbling to all the Protestant Churches, so could it not but be a high provocation against him, who is a *jealous* God, visiting the sinnes of the fathers upon the Children: And albeit his Majesty might extenuat his former carriage and actions in following of the advice and walking in the way of those who are opposite to the Covenant, and to the work of God, and might excuse his delaying to give satisfaction to the *just* & necessary desires of the Kirk and Kingdom of *Scotland*, from his education and age and evill counsel & company, and from the strange and insolent proceedings of Sectaries against his Royal Father, and in reference to religion and the Ancient Government of the Kingdom of *England*, to which he hath the undoubted right of Succession, Yet knowing that he hath to do with God, Hee doeth ingenuously acknowledge all his owne sinnes and all the sinnes of his Fathers House, craving pardon, and hoping for mercie, and reconciliation, through the blood of *Jesus Christ*. And as he doth value the constant

addresses,

addreſſes, that were made by his People to the Throne of Grace on his behalf when he ſtood in oppoſition to the work of God, as a ſingular Teſtimony of long ſuffering patience and mercy upon the Lords part, & loyalty upon theirs, So doth he hope, and ſhall take it as one of the greateſt tokens of their love and affection to him and to his Government, that they will continue in prayer and ſupplication to God for him, that the Lord who ſpared and preſerved him to this day, notwithſtanding of all his own guiltineſſe, may be at peace with him, and give him to fear the Lord his God, and to ſerve him with a perfect heart, & with a willing mind all the dayes of his life.

And his Majeſty having upon full perſwaſion of the Iuſtice & equity of all the heads & articles thereof, now ſworn & ſubſcribed the National Covenant of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, & the ſolemn League and Covenant of the three Kingdoms of *Scotland*, *England* and *Ireland*, Doth Declare that he hath not ſworn & ſubſcribed theſe Covenants, & entred into the Oath of God with his people, upon any ſiniſter intention & crooked deſign for attaining

taining his own ends, but ſo far as humane weakneſſe will permit in the truth and ſinceritie of his heart, and that he is firmly reſolved in the Lords ſtrength to adhere thereto, & to proſecute to the utmoſt of his power all the ends thereof, in his ſtation and calling, really, conſtantly & ſincerely all the dayes of his life: In order to which hee doth in the firſt place Profeſſe and Declare that hee wil have no enemies, but the enemies of the Covenant, & that he wil have no friends but the friends of the Covenant. And therefore as he doth now deteſt and abhor all Popery, Superſtition & Idolatry, together with Prelacy and all errors, hereſie, ſchiſm and profaneneſs, and reſolves not to tolerate, much leſſe allow any of theſe in any part of his Majeſties Dominions, but to oppoſe himſelfe thereto, and to endeavour the extirpation thereof to the utmoſt of his power; So doth he as a Chriſtian Exhort, and as a King Require that all ſuch of his ſubjects who have ſtood in oppoſition to the Solemn League and Covenant and work of Reformation, upon a pretence of Kingly intereſt, or any other pretext whatſoever, to lay down

their

their enmity againſt the Cauſe & people of God, and to ceaſe to preferre the intereſt of man to the intereſt of God, wch hath been one of thoſe things that hath occaſioned many troubles & calamities in theſe Kingdoms, and being inſiſted into, will be ſo far from eſtabliſhing of the Kings Throne, that it will prove an Idol of Iealouſie to provoke unto wrath him who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords: The King ſhal alwiſe eſteem them beſt ſervants, and moſt Loyal Subiects, who ſerve him & ſeek his greatneſſe in a right line of ſubordination unto God, giving unto God the things that are Gods, and unto *Ceſar* the things that are *Ceſares*, And reſolveth not to love, or countenance any, who have ſo little Conſcience and piety, as to follow his intreſts with a preiudice to the Goſpell and the Kingdome of *Jeſus Chriſt*, which he looks not upon as a dutie, but as flatterie, and driving of ſelf deſigns, under a pretence of maintaining Royall Authority and greatneſſe.

II. His Maieſty being convinced in conſcience, of the exceeding great ſinfulneſſe and unlawfulneſſe, of that Treatie and peace made with the blo-

die

dy *Iriſh* Rebels, who treacherouſly ſhed the blood of ſo many of his faithfull and Loyall Subiects in *Ireland*, and of allowing unto them the liberty of the Popiſh Religion; for the which he doth from his heart deſire to be deeply humbled before the Lord; And likewiſe conſidereing how many breaches have been upon their part, Doth Declare the ſame to be voyd, And that his Majeſty is abſolved therefrom; being truly ſorry that he ſhould have ſought unto ſo unlawfull help for reſtoring of him to his Throne, and reſolving for the time to come, rather to chooſe affliction then ſin.

III. As his Majeſty did in the late Treaty with his people in this kingdom, agree to recall & annull all Commmiſsions againſt any of his Subiects, who did adhere to the Covenant, and Monarchicall Government in any of his kingdomes; ſo doth he now Declare, that by commiſsionating of ſome perſons by Sea, againſt the people of *England*, he did not intend dammage, or iniurie to his oppreſt and harmleſſe Subiects in that kingdom, who follow their trade of Merchandize in

their lawfull callings, but only the opposing and suppressing of those who had usurped the government, and not only barre him from his just right, but also exercise an arbitrary power over his people, in those things which concern their persons, consciences and estates: And as since his coming into *Scotland*, he hath given no Commissions against any of his Subiects in *England* or *Ireland*, so he doth hereby Assure and Declare, that he will give none to their preiudice or dammage, and what ever shall be the wrongs of these usurpers, that he will bee so farre from avenging these upon any who are free thereof, by interrupting and stoping the liberty of trade and Merchandize or otherwise, that he will seek their good, & to the utmost imploy his Royall power, that they may be protected and defended against the unjust violence of all men whatsoever. And albeit his Majesty desireth to construct wel of the intentions of those (in reference to his Majesty) who have been active in Counsell or Arms against the Covenant, Yet being convinced that it doth conduce for the honour of God, the good of

his cause, & his own honour and happineſs, and for the peace & ſafety of theſe kingdoms, that ſuch be not imployed in places of power and truſt, He doth Declare, that he will not imploy, nor give Commiſsions to any ſuch, until they have not only taken or renewed the Covenant, but alſo have given ſufficient evidences of their integrity, carriage, and affection to the work of Reformation, and ſhall be declared capable of truſt by the Parl. of either kingdom reſpective: And his Majeſty upon the ſame grounds, doth hereby Recall all Commiſsions given to any ſuch perſons, conceiving all ſuch perſons will ſo much tender a good underſtanding betwixt him & his Subjects, and the ſetling and preſerving a firm peace in theſe kingdoms, that they will not grudg nor repine at his Majeſties reſolutions and proceedings herein, much leſs upon diſcontent act any thing in a divided way unto the raiſing of new troubles, eſpecially ſince upon their pious & good deportment, there is a regreſs left unto them in manner above expreſſed.

And as his Majeſtie hath given ſatisfaction to the juſt and neceſſary deſires of the Kirk and Kingdom of Scotland, So doth he hereby Aſſure & Declare that he is no leſſe willing and deſirous to give ſatis-

faction to the just and necessary desires of his good subjects in England and Ireland; and in token thereof, if the houses of Parliament of England sitting in freedome shal think fit to present unto him, the propositions of peace agreed upon by both Kingdomes, he wil not only accord to the same, and such alterations thereanent as the Houses of Parliament in regard of the constitution of affaires, and the good of his Majestie and his Kingdomes shall judge necessarie, but do what is further necessarie, for prosecuting the ends of the Solemn League and Covenant, especially in those things which concerne the Reformation of the Church of England in Doctrine, worship, discipline, and Government; that not onely the directary of worship, the Confession of Faith and Catechisme, but also the propositions and directory for Church Government accorded upon by the Synod of Divines at Westminster may be setled, and that the Church of England may enjoy the full libertie and freedome of all Assemblies & power of Kirk censures, and of all the ordinances of Jesus Christ according to the rule of his own word, and that whatsoever is commanded by the God of Heaven, may be diligently done

done for the house of the God of Heaven. And what ever heretofore hath been the suggestions of some to him, to render his Matie. jealous of his Parl. & of the servants of God; yet as he hath declared, that in Scotland he will hearken to their Counsell, & follow their advice in those things that concern that Kingdom and Kirk; So doth he also Declare his firm resolution to manage the goverment of the kingdom of England, by the advice of his Parl. consisting of an House of Lords, & of an House of Com. there, and in those things that concern Religion to prefer the counsels of the Ministers of the Gospel, to all other Counsels what soever; And that al the world may see how much he tenders the safety of his people, and how precious their blood is in his sight, & how desirous he is to recover his Crown & Government in England by peaceable means, as he doth esteem the service of those who first engaged in the Covenant, & have since that time faithfully followed the ends thereof, to be duty to God, & Loyalty to him; So is he willing in regard of others, who have been involved in these late Commotions in England against Religion and Government, to pass an Act of Oblivion, Excepting only some few in that Nation, who have bin chief obstructers of the work of Reformation, and chief

Authours of the change of the Government, and of the murther of his Royall Father; Provided, that these who are to have the benefit of this Act lay down Armes, and return to the obedience of their lawfull Soveraign.

The Committee of Estates of the Kingdom, and Generall Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, having declared so fully in what concerns the Sectaries, and the present designs, resolutions, and acting of their Army against the kingdom of Scotland, and the same Committee and Assembly having sufficiently layd open publick dangers & duties both upon the right hand, and upon the left, It is not needful for his Majesty to adde any thing thereunto, except that in those things he doth Commend & Approve them, & that he resolves to live & die with them & his loyal subjects, in prosecution of the ends of the Covenant.

And whereas that prevailing party in Eng. after all their strange usurpations, and insolent actings in that land, do not only keep his Majesty from the government of that kingdom by force of Armes, but also have now invaded the kingdom of Scotland, who have deserved better things at their hands, & against whom they have no just quarrel, His Matie doth therefore desire and expect that all his good subjects in Eng. who are & resolve to be

faithfull

faithful to God, and to their King according to the Covenant, will lay hold upon such an opportunity, & use their utmost endeavours to promove the Covenant and all the ends thereof, and to recover and reestablish the ancient government of the kingdom of Engl. (under which for many generations it did flourish in peace and plenty at home, and in reputation abroad) and privileges of the Par. and native and just liberty of the people. His Majestie desires to assure himself that there doth remain in these so much confidence of their duty to Religion, their King & country, & so many sparkles of the ancient English valour, which shined so eminently in their noble ancestors, as will put them on to bestir themselves for breaking the yoke of those mens oppressions from off their necks. Shall men of conscience & honor set religion, liberties and government at so low a rate, as not rather to undergo any hazard, before they be thus deprived of them? will not all generous men count any death more tolerable then to live in servitude all their dayes? and will not posterty blame those who dare attempt nothing for themselves, & for their children, in so good a cause, in such an exigent? Whereas if they gather themselvs, & take courage, putting on a resolution answerable to so noble and just an enterprise, they shall honour God, and gain themselves

ſelves the reputation of pious men, worthy patriots, and loyall ſubjects, and be called the repairers of the breach, by the preſent and ſucceeding generations; and they may certainly promiſe to thẽſelvs a bleſſing from God upon ſo juſt & honourable undertaking for the Lord and for his cauſe, for their own liberties, their native King & country, and the unvaluable good and happines of the poſterity. What ever hath formerly bin his Majeſties guiltines before God, and the bad ſucceſſe that theſe have had who owned his affairs, whilſt he ſtood in oppoſition to the work of God, yet the ſtate of the queſtion being now altered, & his Majeſty having obtained mercy to be on Gods ſide, & to prefer Gods intereſt before his own, he hopes that the Lord wil be gracious and countenance his own cauſe, in the hands of weak and ſinfull inſtruments againſt all enemies whatſoever. This is all that can be ſaid by his Matie at preſent to theſe in England *and* Ireland *at ſuch a diſtance: And as they ſhal acquit themſelves at this time in the active diſcharge of their neceſſary duties ſo ſhal they be accepted before God, endeared to his Ma^ty and their names had in ramembrance throughout the World.* Given at our Court at *Dumfermline* the 16. day of *Auguſt*, 1650. And in the ſecond year of our Reign.

m/k